

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /083 W

-----290604Z 032280 /14

R 281547Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1658

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PROTEST PLANS AND COUNTER MANEUVERS

REF: BELFAST 142 (B) BELFAST 131 (C) BELFAST 130

1. REVEREND IAN PAISLEY AND ERNEST BAIRD, WHO CHANGED HIS "MOVEMENT" TO A POLITICAL PARTY APRIL 26, ATTENDED COURT HEARING APRIL 27 OF TEN MEMBERS ULSTER SERVICE CORPS (USC) DUNGANNON SUMMONED ON CHARGES OF OPERATING ILLEGAL ROAD BLOCKS. CASES WERE ADJOURNED TO JUNE 1 BUT PAISLEY AND BAIRD ADDRESSED CROWD AFTER HEARING AND BAIRD SAID UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL (UAC) "HAND IS ON THE PLOW" AND THAT IF THERE CONFRONTATION NEXT WEEK IT WOULD BE DUE TO OBSTINACY OF SECRETARY OF STATE ROY MASON AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT. CONGEN NOTES IT ISSUE OF USC HEARINGS THAT SPARKED IDEA OF PROTEST. NEITHER BAIRD NOR PAISLEY HAS YET SAID PROTEST WOULD TAKE FORM OF "STRIKE". CONGEN INFORMED THAT BAIRD HINTED TO ONE NEWSMAN AT DUNGANNON THAT BRITISH ARMY WOULD NOT INTERVENE: "REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CURRANGH." JOURNALIST PUT THIS DOWN TO WISHFUL THINKING ON BAIRD'S PART. IN BIZARRE STATEMENT LATER APRIL 27, UAC CHARGED THAT "BRITISH INTELLIGENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS ARRANGED WITH CERTAIN SUBVERSIVE AND ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS TO COMMENCE THE MASSACRE OF INNOCENT ROMAN CATHOLICS THIS WEEKEND "IN ATTEMPT TO SMEAR MEMBERS OF ULSTER UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE STATEMENT SAID CLAIM WAS BEING TREATED WITH THE CONTEMPT IT DESERVED.

2. "INFORMED SOURCES" TYPE SPECULATAION ON GOVERNMENT

CONTINGENCY ACTIVITIES INCLUDES INTENT TO TAKE OVER AND OPERATE POWER STATIONS WITH ARMY ENGINEERS IF NECESSARY. ROY MASON APPEARED AT HARLAND AND WOLFF SHIPYARD APRIL 27 TO ANNOUNCE YARD HAD BEEN AWARDED CONTRACTS WORTH POUNDS STERLING 70 MILLION FOR TWO SHELL COMPANY LIQUID GAS CARRIERS FOR DELIVERY IN 1980. MASON NOTED ORDERS MEANT SAFEGUARD FOR 2000 JOBS AT YARD AND THOUSAND MORE IN SUPPORT INDUSTRIES. IT ALSO POINTED OUT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZING ORDER FOR POUNDS STERLING 12 MILLION TO OUT-BID JAPANESE. MR. MASON EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MEETING DELIVERY DATES. SHIPYARD WORKERS SUPPORTED 1974 STOPPAGE ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

3. APRIL 27 JAMES MOLYNEAUX AND ECONOCH POWELL DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES AND UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) MPS AT WESTMINSTER FROM ACTION THAT WOULD BE "DIRECT CONTRADICTION" OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY WESTMINSTER MPS. IAN PAISLEY COUNTERED WITH CHARGE THAT POWELL PERSUADED MOLYNEAUX "WHO USUALLY DOES WHAT MR. POWELL TELLS HIM" TO CALL MEETING OF UUUC MPS TO EXPEL HIM (PAISLEY) AND BAIRD-MAN JOHN DUNLOP FROM COALITION. APRIL 28 AT LOCAL MEETING DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY HOWEVER, PAISLEY SAID HE HAD ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD NOT BE EXPELLED.

4. CONSENSUS GUESSING IN BELFAST HARD-CORE LOYALIST SHANKILL AND SANDY ROW AREAS APRIL 28 IS THAT THERE WILL BE ONE-DAY STRIKE MAY 3 WITH ELECTRICITY SHUT-OFF, THAT PARAMILITARIES WILL ATTEMPT TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM REACHING JOBS BUT THAT MOST COMPANIES WILL OPERATE AND THAT WORKERS WILL GET TO JOBS IF THEY CAN. SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CORRUPTION, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, SECURITY, POLICE FORCES, GENERAL STRIKES
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BELFAST 142, 77 BELFAST 131, 77 BELFAST 130
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2671919
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROTEST PLANS AND COUNTER MANEUVERS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, UK, EI, ULSTER SERVICE CORPS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67323e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009